

Beltsdorf 688-HCL
100718-276
6713-Dr. Wi-hf

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented)

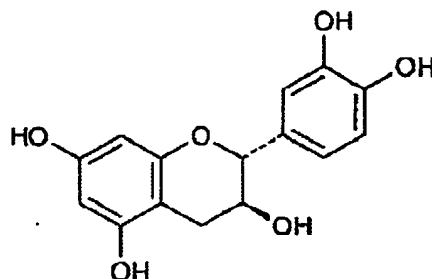
5. A method selected from the group consisting of treatment and/or care of dry skin; increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin; stimulating sphingolipid synthesis; strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin and combinations thereof for a human in need thereof which comprises applying to the skin of the human a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising of 0.001-10% by weight of a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof, based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 6 (previously presented)

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin are selected from the group consisting of (-)-catechin, (+)-catechin, (-)-catechin gallate, (-)-gallocatechin gallate, (+)-epicatechin, (-)-epicatechin, (-)-epicatechin gallate, (-)-epigallocatechin, and (-)-epigallocatechin gallate.

Claim 7 (previously presented)

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin is

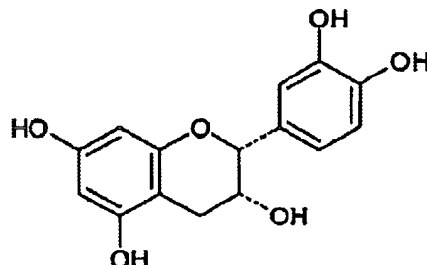


or a gallic ester thereof.

Belersdorf 688-HCL
100718-275
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Claim 8 (previously presented)

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof.

Claim 9 (previously presented)

9. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant.

Claim 10 (previously presented)

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant from the *Theaceae* plant family.

Claim 11 (previously presented)

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from the plant species *Camellia sinensis*.

Claim 12 (previously presented)

12. A method selected from the group consisting of treatment and/or care of dry skin; increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin; stimulating sphingolipid synthesis; strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin and combinations thereof for a human in need thereof which comprises applying to the skin of the human a therapeutically effective amount of an extract from a plant or plant parts which comprises a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof.

Belersdorf 688-HCL
100710-275
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Claims 13-26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (previously presented)

27. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is treatment and/or care of dry skin.

Claim 28 (previously presented)

28. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin.

Claim 29 (previously presented)

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the ceramides are ceramides 1, 2 and 3.

Claim 30 (previously presented)

30. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is stimulating sphingolipid synthesis.

Claim 31 (previously presented)

31. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin.